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CITY DEPARTMENT TO HOST SECOND ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE
Event encourages small business representatives to meet with officials from Public Utilities and other City agencies in an effort to increase opportunities

The City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities will host its second annual Small Business Conference on Thursday, April 17, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Ohio State University Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, 2400 Olentangy River Road. Admission is free.

In addition to the three Utilities' divisions—sewerage and drainage, water and electricity—Mayor Michael B. Coleman, City Councilwoman Patsy Thomas and representatives from the city's purchasing office and Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office will be in attendance to discuss business practices and opportunities within Public Utilities.

"Interacting with a government department the size of public utilities can at times be daunting, particularly for a small business," said Public Utilities Director John R. Doutt. "What we found out as a result of last year's conference is that this is an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with our system, make contact with key personnel and evaluate the goods and services that we require on a daily basis to see if they match your particular business."

Aside from interacting with city personnel, attendees will also have the opportunity to network with larger general contractors and professional engineering contractors who frequently subcontract work out to small businesses. Representatives will be in attendance to discuss their needs and processes, as well as providing contact information.

Following opening remarks, breakout sessions will be held at which attendees can tailor their interest to one of three categories—goods and services, professional services and capital improvement projects.

For registration information, contact James Bond at 614-645-3821 or Jean Clark at 614-645-6433. Registration deadline is April 4.

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